Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PREFACE.

It is obvious that so large a subject as public assistance in France could not be dealt with critically, much less exhaustively, in an essay of this length. Poor law legislation and administration raise so many questions, political, economic and social, and have such far-reaching consequences in each of these kinds, that I have attempted little beyond simple exposition, but I have tried to make this complete and accurate.

I hardly need, perhaps, to call attention to the fact, obvious enough from my references, that the historical parts of this essay are drawn almost entirely from secondary sources. Especially in some of the pages dealing with pre-revolutionary charity, I have often furnished little more than an abstract of Monnier's history, justifying myself by his generous motto: "Voluit alios habere parata, unde sumerent qui vellent scribere historiam." My other authorities, being less full, only served in many cases to corroborate his account as far as they went. Any discrepancies which I have seemed to detect have been (except in one instance which I have noted) either very slight or possibly reconcilable. Realizing the disadvantages of this kind of writing I have endeavored to keep strictly within the

limits it imposes, and to make it possible to control every statement.

My work has been done under many drawbacks and with many interruptions, and has more than corresponding defects, but, as far as I can judge, it is not superfluous. At least, I know of no such complete account, in English, of a very interesting matter. When it is completely superseded by something better, I shall be repaid for the time I have spent on it so lavishly in proportion to the result obtained.

I wish also to acknowledge publicly the courtesy and generosity of Professor Emile Levasseur, who was good enough to give me some direction in preparing this account of French charity, and whose kindness to me during a stay in Paris was unfailing.